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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



imagery analysis report

**Unusual Military Activity During
September — October 1980, Far East
Military District, USSR (S)**

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UNUSUAL MILITARY ACTIVITY DURING SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 1980, FAR EAST MILITARY DISTRICT, USSR (S)

1. (S/D) On imagery from [] a high level of training and related military activity was observed in the 5th Army¹ and the probable unidentified Lesozavodsk Army/Corps areas of the Far East Military District (MD), USSR (Figure 1). The active units included a front-level SCALEBOARD brigade, elements of four motorized rifle divisions (MRD), army-wide air defense assets, and a helicopter combat assault regiment. This activity is atypical since the usual summer training cycle ended the last week in August.

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2. (S/D) The most significant activity observed was a probable readiness alert on [] involving at least three motorized rifle regiments (MRRs) and an SA-6 regiment from two armies and a probable army/corps. The three MRRs were equipped with BMP armored personnel carriers (APC) and were seen departing Ussuriysk Army Barracks West AL-3 [] Figure 2), Lesozavodsk MRD Headquarters/Barracks East AL-2 [] Figure 3), and Bikin Tank Division Headquarters/Barracks AL-1 []. The Ussuriysk MRR is subordinate to the 5th Army while the Lesozavodsk MRR and Bikin MRR are subordinate to the probable unidentified Lesozavodsk Army/Corps and the 15th Army, respectively. All units had returned to garrison by []. The short duration of the activity, only six days, and the fact that each MRR had already participated in the summer training cycle suggest a readiness alert rather than a field training exercise (FTX).

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3. (S/D) On [] 80 percent of the 5th Army area was imaged and extensive training activity was observed. An unusual combined-arms FTX was underway at Sergeyevka Training Area Southwest 1 []. Elements of an MRR (30 medium tanks, 13 BTR-6PB, and three ZSU-23/4) and a multiple-rocket launcher (MRL) battery (five BM-21) were operating in conjunction with elements of an army-level helicopter combat assault regiment. The MRR and MRL elements were advancing on a possible command post (CP) 1 nautical mile (nm) to the west which consisted of three HIP helicopters, one tank, and 20 vehicles. In addition, eight probable HIND D/E (Figure 4) were parked in a field 2 nm to the south. The combat assault elements were probably deployed from Chernigovka Airfield []. FTXs integrating divisional and army assets are usually terminated by late August.

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4. (S/D) Two other unusual FTXs were also seen on []. An SA-6 regiment was deployed in a field 1.5 nm north of Ussuriysk AL-3, where the regiment is garrisoned (Figure 5). The entire regiment conducted a FTX from [] and usually would not be expected to hold another major exercise within three months. Also on [] an army-wide air defense exercise was underway at Pushkino Training Area 1 [] 15 nm southwest of Ussuriysk (Figure 6). Equipment observed included at least 32 ZSU-23/4, 30 SA-9, 21 ZU-23 or ZPU-4 antiaircraft (AA) guns, 12 57mm AA guns S-60, 17 BTR-60 command vehicles, and approximately 100 trucks. This represents the regimental air defense assets for at least two divisions of the 5th Army and elements of a divisional AAA battalion. As at Sergeyevka, training activity involving assets of several divisions is unusual in mid-September.

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5. (S/D) On [] a large SCALEBOARD surface-to-surface missile FTX (Figure 7) was observed 2 nm south of Novosyoyevka SSM Launch Position 1 [] and involved four SCALEBOARD transporter-erector-launchers (TELs), four SCALEBOARD resupply vehicles with SCALEBOARD resupply canisters, two possible warhead vans, one MAZ-535/-537 heavy-duty crane, and 36 vehicles. The Far East MD subordinate SCALEBOARD brigade at Novosyoyevka SSM Launch Position 1 has not previously been active in October.

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6. (S/D) Usually when the summer training cycle ends, all units return to garrison by the last week of August. The mid-September and early October activity at Sergeyevka, Pushkino, and Novosysoyevka and the SA-6 exercise at Ussuriysk indicated that the 1980 summer training cycle was significantly extended in this area.

DOCUMENT

1. DIA. DDB-1100-UR-79, *Ground Order of Battle (GOB)—USSR (U)*, Sep 79 (SECRET [REDACTED])

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [REDACTED]
Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [REDACTED]

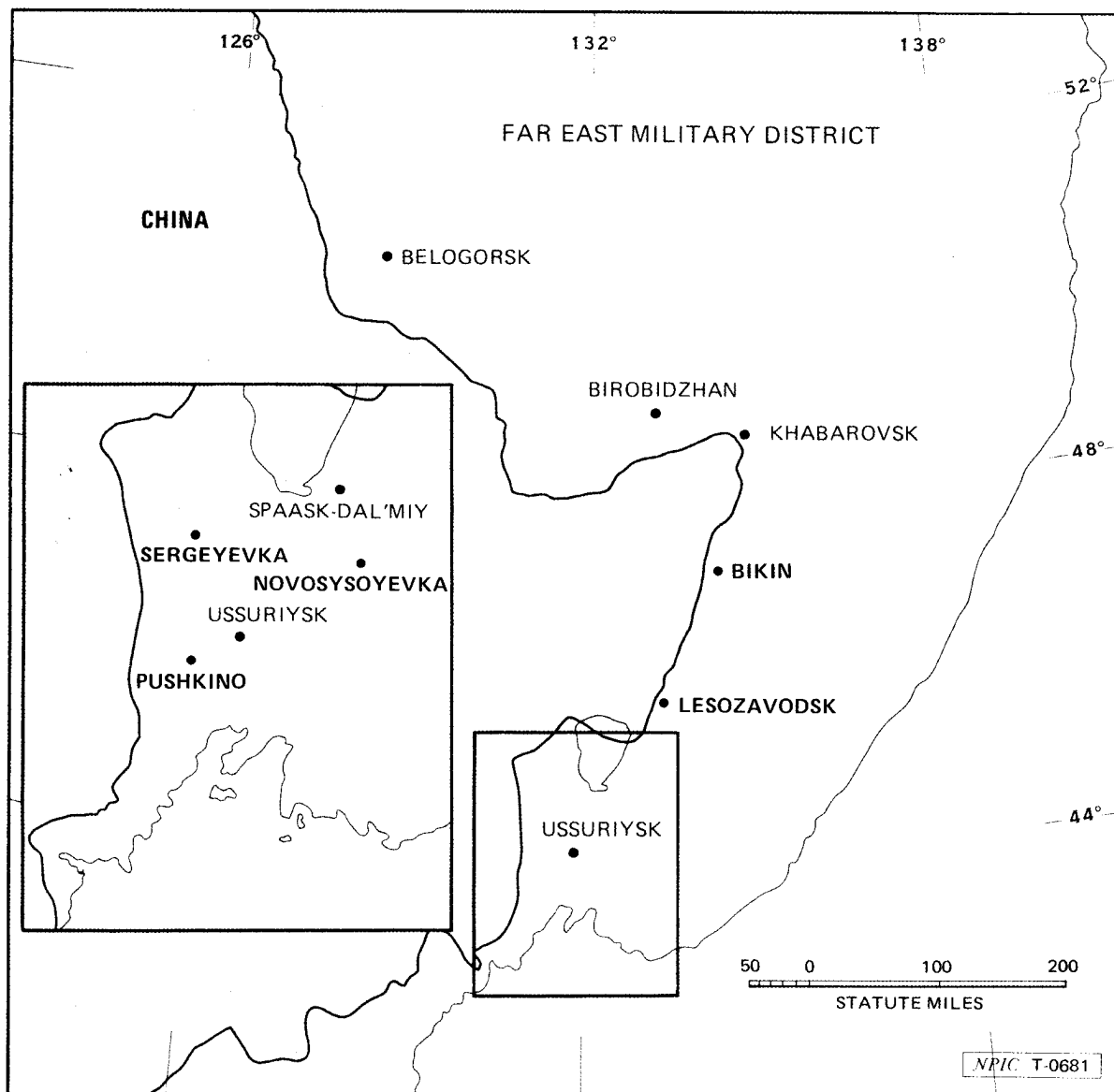
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FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF UNUSUAL MILITARY ACTIVITY, FAR EAST MILITARY DISTRICT, USSR

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